New Commissionerate of Central Excise and Customs in Thiruvananthapuram

968. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chamber of Commerce, Thiruvananthapuram has requested Government to open a new Commissionerate of Central Excise and Customs in Thiruvananthapuram; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request has been received for opening a new Commissionerate of Central Excise and Customs at Thiruvananthapuram from the Chamber of Commerce, by the Government. The request has been noted.

NPAs of Banks and Financial Institutions

969. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the large sums of money out of the loans and other facilities provided by various financial institutions and banks like IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, UTI, LIC, GIC, SBI and others to some corporate houses have not been paid, although they have become due; and

(b) if so, the details of such top 20 defaulters, their overdues as on 30th September, 2001 of all the financial institutions and banks giving the name of the company, name of the Group to which it belongs and the amount due but not paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHIR BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Assistance to Media/TV Companies by Banks/FIs

970. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Media/TV companies which have been given financial assistance by way of loan, equity and working capital by the financial institutions like IDBI, Exim Bank, IFCI and IIBI etc; and

(b) what is the amount of such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) IDBI has provided financial assistance to seven Media/TV companies involving sanctions aggregating to Rs. 89.5 crores. IFCI has sanctioned financial assistance to four companies involving sanctions aggregating to Rs. 141.8 crores. Similarly, IIBI has also sanctioned four projects with an aggregate outstanding of Rs. 2.18 crores. Exim Bank does not have any exposure in Media/TV companies.

Smuggling of Cellular Handsets

971. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale of smuggling of cellular handsets is causing huge revenue loss to the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Cellular Association has made suggestion for dealing with the smugglers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it cannot be said with certainty that large scale smuggling of cellular handsets is taking place which is causing huge loss of revenue to the country. However, details of seizures of cellular handsets effected by field